

PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS' BENEFITS (PSOB) PROGRAM

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

I heard that your office recently sent out PSOB Information Kits—and also the *Attorney General's Guide to the Hometown Heroes Survivors' Benefits Act*. Can I get copies of the Kit and Guide for my public safety agency?

These PSOB resources were recently distributed to more than 60,000 public safety agencies nationwide. Based on this widespread distribution, the PSOB Office is currently out of the Kits and Guides. Please do not hesitate to visit the PSOB homepage at www.psob.gov to view or print information regarding the PSOB Program. Please note that all the information contained in the Kit, as well as other details regarding the PSOB Program, can be found online. The Guide is also readily available for download at www.psob.gov.

Do original or certified birth certificates, marriage certificates, death certificates, etc. have to be submitted when filing a PSOB claim?

In nearly all PSOB cases, copies are acceptable. If original or certified documents are required, the agency and/or survivor will be contacted by the PSOB Office to discuss the request.

How can I check on the status of a specific death, disability, or education claim that has already been filed with the PSOB Office?

Call the PSOB Office toll-free at 1-888-744-6513 to speak with the Benefits Specialist assigned to the claim.

As a public safety officer, do I have to “enroll” in the PSOB Program to be covered?

There is no enrollment or registration required for the PSOB Program. No action has to be taken until a public safety officer dies due to a line-of-duty injury. If such a tragedy does occur, the agency works with the PSOB Office (1-888-744-6513) to discuss the death claim process.

Should an officer become permanently and totally disabled due to a catastrophic line-of-duty injury, the injured officer (or representative) contacts the PSOB Office to discuss the disability claim process.

How much time does a survivor have to file a PSOB death benefits claim after an officer has died from a line-of-duty injury?

Per the PSOB regulations, unless a waiver is granted, a claim for death benefits must be filed either within three years of the public safety officer's death or one year after line-of-duty benefits for the officer's death have been received or denied.

How much time does a public safety officer have to file a PSOB disability benefits claim after an officer has suffered a catastrophic, line-of-duty injury that has left him permanently and totally disabled?

Per the PSOB regulations, unless a waiver is granted, a claim for disability benefits must be filed either:

- within three years of the public safety officer's injury; or

- within one year after line-of-duty disability benefits (such as Workers Compensation) have been received or denied by the officer's agency; if such benefits are being received by the officer, they must be the maximum legally payable by the agency with respect to disabled public safety officers of his kind, rank, and tenure.
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Would a recruit in the police or fire academy be eligible for PSOB death benefits if they were killed during training exercises?

An individual is considered a public safety officer if they meet the definition of that term according to the PSOB regulations. In cases in which a recruit dies while participating in training in a police or fire academy, it would have to be shown that he already had the authority to act as a law enforcement officer (which would include, for example, having had arrest powers) or had the authority to engage in fire suppression activities. Should these requirements be satisfied, eligibility for PSOB benefits could apply if the other criteria contained in the PSOB Act and regulations can be met.